

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJ: LEADING IRANIAN JOURNALIST REQUESTS HIGH

LEVEL INTERVIEWS WASHINGTON BETWEEN

OCTOBER 5-10, 1977

1. AMIR TAHERI (35), EDITOR OF IRAN'S LARGEST CIRCULATING AND MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER, WHO WILL BE ATTENDING STANFORD RESERACH INSTITUTE SEMINAR ON IRAN IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 2-5, HAS APPROACHED USIS FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH HIGH LEVEL U.S. PERSONALITIES FOLLOWING SEMINAR, OCTOBER 5-10.

2. TAHERI LISTS PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARIES VANCE AND SCHLESINGER, MR. BRZEZINSKI, SENATOR BYRD AND SPEAKER O'NEILL AS THOSE HE WISHES TO MEET.

3. TAHERI RECOGNIZES SCHEDULES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS MAY ALREADY BE SO CHARGED AS TO RULE OUT HIS CHANCES, BUT HE IS MAKING HIS BID. EMBASSY NOT SURPRISED BY REQUEST. TAHERI IS CLEARLY IRAN'S MOST PROMINENT JOURNALIST IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS FIELD. IN RECENT WEEKS, HE HAS CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVE IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS WITH THE SHAH (TEHRAN 08176) AND GENERAL ZIA (TEHRAN 08277). DESPITE RELATIVE YOUTH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAHERI IS POISED, WELL PREPARED AND WELL INFORMED. WHILE CLEARLY PRUDENT, HE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN APOLOGIST OR FLACK IN JOURNALISTIC, DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER CIRCLES. HIS QUESTIONS ARE USUALLY SEARCHING AND HIS ACCOUNTS ACCURATE. COMMNET: I BELIEVE TAHERI'S REQUEST FOR INTERVIEWS AT THESE HIGH LEVELS SHOULD RECEIVE MOST FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. TAHERI'S DISPATCHES CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FULL AND FAIR AND WOULD RECEIVE WIDEST

POSSIBLE COVERAGE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FARSI LANGUAGE EDITIONS
OF KAYHAN. THEY WILL OBVIOUSLY ENGAGE THE ATTENTION OF
THE SHAH AND THE CABINET AT A TIME WHEN THE FORMER WILL BE PREPARING
FOR HIS U.S. VISIT. DOUBTLESS AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI WILL ALSO
PRESS TAHERI'S CASE AND WOULD SERVE AS A CONTACT POINT WHEN
AND AS INTERVIEWS ARE SCHEDULED.
SULLIVAN

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